

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SANAA 02440 231052Z

20

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 SAB-01 INT-08

SCEM-02 MC-02 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /138 W

----- 082672

R 230934Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY SANAA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3125

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USMISSION GENEVA

USINT CAIRO

S E C R E T SANAA 2440

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: XX, YE, EAID

SUBJ: MEETING WITH PRESIDENT IRYANI

1. SUMMARY. YAR PRESIDENT EXPRESSES GRATIFICATION WITH US ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS. CRITICIZES \$2 BILLION IN MILITARY AID TO ISRAEL AS LIKELY INCREASE ITS INTRANSIGENCE IN NEGOTIATION. HOPES SYRIA CAN BE PERSUADED JOIN GENEVA CONFERENCE ONCE SOME INITIAL POSITIVE RESULTS ACHIEVED AND PROMISES FURTHER YARG SUPPORT WITH SYRIA TO THIS END. END SUMMARY.

2. I CALLED ON PRESIDENT IRYANI DECEMBER 23 TO PAY RESPECTS FOR FORTHCOMING MOSLIM HOLIDAY. THIS BEING ALSO APPROXIMATELY THE ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF MY PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS, I DELIVERED TO PRESIDENT A LETTER SUMMARIZING PROGRESS MADE IN U.S. ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, DIRECT AND INDIRECT. I WARMLY PRAISED COOPERATION RECEIVED FROM YEMENI OFFICIALS PRINCIPALLY CONCERNED WITH DEVELOPMENT MATTERS AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT WHATEVER

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 SANAA 02440 231052Z

OTHER MINISTERIAL CHANGES MIGHT TAKE PLACE FROM TIME TO

TIME BECAUSE OF DOMESTIC POLITICAL IMPERATIVES,
THESE WOULD BE LEFT IN PLACE TO CONTINUE THEIR FINE WORK.

3. PRESIDENT EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR U.S. ASSISTANCE,
NOTING WITH A SMILE AN ARAB PROVERB THAT QUOTE SUCCESS
IS THE KEY TO MORE UNQUOTE. SAID HE REALIZED NEED FOR
CONTINUITY IN DEVELOPMENT MINISTRIES AND INTENDED RETAIN
KEY OFFICIALS IN PRESENT JOBS INDEFINITELY.

4. PRESIDENT SWITCHED QUICKLY TO SUBJECT MOST ON HIS MIND:
SECRETARY KISSINGER'S VISIT TO MIDDLE EAST; GENEVA
CONFERENCE AND PROSPECTS FOR PEACE. OBVIOUSLY REFLECTING
HIS DISCUSSION THREE DAYS EARLIER WITH SYRIAN FONMIN
KHADDAM (SANAA 2424), HE COMMENTED THERE COULD BE NO
LASTING PEACE IN MIDDLE EAST THAT DID NOT TAKE INTO
ACCOUNT CONCERNS OF SYRIA AND THE PALESTINIANS.

5. I REPLIED THAT SYRIA'S REFUSAL GO TO GENEVA MUCH
TO BE REGRETTED. IT SEEMED THAT SYRIA STILL
TRYING TO PLAY THE OLD GAME OF SEEKING COMMITMENT
ON CONCESSIONS PRIOR TO NEGOTIATION. USG COMMITTED
TO WORK FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION 242 IN CONTEXT
OF A NEGOTIATION. GENEVA WAS THE ARENA IN WHICH SYRIA
COULD PRESS ITS INTERESTS. IF IT DID NOT GO, IT
WAS UNLIKELY THESE INTERESTS WOULD BE ADVANCED. SADAT
HAS APPRECIATED THIS FACT AND HAD GOTTEN OUT OF THE
INITIAL MEETINGS ESTABLISHMENT OF A MILITARY WORKING GROUP
TO STUDY DISENGAGEMENT OF FORCES. YEMENI RELATIONS WITH SYRIA
WERE CLOSE AND I HOPED YEMEN WOULD USE ITS INFLUENCE IN
EFFORT PERSUADE SYRIA TO JOIN.

6. PRESIDENT SAID HE HAD TALKED TO KHADDAM IN THIS
SENSE. HOWEVER, KHADDAM HAD SAID DR. KISSINGER HAD
HELD OUT LITTLE HOPE FOR ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL IN GOLAN
AND THUS SYRIA HAD DECIDED IT NOT WORTHWHILE TAKE
THE DOMESTIC POLITICAL RISKS OF ATTENDANCE AT GENEVA.
IF GENEVA DISCUSSIONS PRODUCED SOME FIRST STEPS IN
ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL, SYRIA MIGHT BE PERSUADED RECONSIDER.
YARG WOULD CONTINUE WORK AT THIS. (PRESIDENTIAL
POLITICAL ADVISER) NU'MAN SEEING KHADDAM IN DAMASCUS
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 SANAA 02440 231052Z

NEXT WEEK. U.S. SHOULD ALSO KEEP AT THE SYRIANS.
KHADDAM HAD SEEMED WELL SATISFIED WITH SYRIANS'
RELATIONSHIP WITH DR. KISSINGER, AND U.S. APPARENTLY
TO HAVE DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVES IN DAMASCUS.
THESE REPRESENTATIVES SHOULD CULTIVATE THE CLOSER
RELATIONS DESIRED BY SYRIA.

7. PRESIDENT SAID PEACE IN MIDDLE EAST, WHICH ALL SENSIBLE

ARABS WANTED, ONLY ACHIEVABLE BY CONTINUED U.S. LEADERSHIP AND USE OF U.S. LEVERAGE ON ISRAEL. IN THIS REGARD, ARABS FELT IT UNFORTUNATE THAT JUST AS NEGOTIATIONS BEGINNING U.S. PROVIDING ISRAEL WITH MORE THAN TWO BILLION DOLLARS IN NEW MILITARY ASSISTANCE. THIS NOT LIKELY INDUCE ISRAELI FLEXIBILITY IN NEGOTIATION.

8. I REPLIED THAT U.S. SUPPORT OF ISRAEL IS A FACT, BUT SO IS OUR DESIRE FOR FRIENDSHIP WITH ARABS. NO SINGLE ARMS OR AID TRANSACTION WILL DETERMINE THE OUTCOME OF NEGOTIATIONS. THAT IS A FUNCTION OF U.S. SUSTAINED DETERMINATION AND COMMITMENT TO THE SEARCH FOR AN EQUITABLE PEACE, AND OF ALL PARTIES' WILLINGNESS COMPROMISE REALISTICALLY. DR. KISSINGER'S TWO VISITS TO THE MIDDLE EAST REFLECTED USG'S COMMITMENT AND DETERMINATION.

9. PRESIDENT AGREED. HE SAID HE WAS VERY MUCH CONCERNED, HOWEVER, THAT RUSSIA PLAYING AN OPPORTUNISTIC GAME TO EXPAND ITS INFLUENCE IN AREA. IF U.S. ABLE BRING SYRIA AND PALESTINIANS INTO NEGOTIATIONS AND IF PEACE WERE ATTAINED, THIS DANGER WOULD BE AVERTED. ARABS WANTED AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP. WITH PEACE, ARAB STATES QUOTE FROM MOROCCO TO GULF WILL BE WITH YOU UNQUOTE.

10. IN MORE PHILOSOPHICAL VEIN, PRESIDENT SAID THAT SADAT'S BEHAVIOR SINCE OCTOBER COULD MARK A TURNING POINT IN ARAB HISTORY. HE HAS LED EGYPT AWAY FROM EMPTY RHETORIC AND SELF-DELUSION. AN OVERWHELMING MAJORITY IN ARAB WORLD HAVE APPLAUDED. IF HE SUCCEEDS IN OBTAINING A JUST PEACE, THIS NEW REALISM CAN SPREAD TO
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 SANAA 02440 231052Z

ARABS' APPROACH TO THEIR RELATIONS WITH ONE ANOTHER AND WITH THE REST OF THE WORLD, AND TO THEIR PROBLEMS IN MODERNIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT. IF HE FAILS, WAR WILL BE RESUMED AND THE DEMAGOGUES AND EXTREMISTS WILL TAKE OVER.
CRAWFORD

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